

A MAIL WILL CLOSE

traits Settlements.—*Per Hakon*, Add-
ington, the 27th instant, at 1.30 p.m.
Bangkok.—To-day, the 27th instant, at
Takow, Taiwan, and Yokohama.—*Per*
To-day, the 27th instant, at 4.30 p.m.
Yokohama and Hieigo.—*Per Burness*, to-
day, the 27th instant, at 5 p.m.
Tollhow and Hamphong (with mails for
and Hauei).—*Per Thales*, to-morrow, the
day, at 6.30 p.m.

Port Darwin, Sydney, Cocktown, and
 Port—Per Zamboanga, to-morrow, the
 28th at 2.30 p.m.
 Saigon—Per Olise, on Friday, the 3rd
 at 3.30 p.m.

SAIGON BY THE-FRENCH PACKET, "PRIMO"
 The French Contact Packet "PRIMO"
 is dispatched from Hongkong on SATUR-
 day, the 28th December, with Mails to
 Saigon, the United Kingdom and Europe,
 Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji,
 Ceylon, Rangoon, Mandalay, Suva,
 and Ascension. This is the best opportunity
 for forwarding Correspondence to these
 places, and also, be forwarded to India by

Following will be the hours of closing the
 2nd December.
 Monday Order Office closes. Post Office
 accept the Nigro Box, which remains
 all night.
 23rd December.
 Monday Order Office closes. Post Office
 accept the Nigro Box, which remains
 all night.
 24th December.
 Tuesday Order Office closes. Post Office
 accept the Nigro Box, which remains
 all night.
 25th December.
 Wednesday Order Office closes. Post Office
 accept the Nigro Box, which remains
 all night.
 26th December.
 Thursday Order Office closes. Post Office
 accept the Nigro Box, which remains
 all night.
 27th December.
 Friday Order Office closes. Post Office
 accept the Nigro Box, which remains
 all night.
 28th December.
 Saturday Order Office closes. Post Office
 accept the Nigro Box, which remains
 all night.
 29th December.
 Sunday Order Office closes. Post Office
 accept the Nigro Box, which remains
 all night.
 30th December.
 Monday Order Office closes. Post Office
 accept the Nigro Box, which remains
 all night.
 31st December.
 Tuesday Order Office closes. Post Office
 accept the Nigro Box, which remains
 all night.

Australian Contract Printer "SOMER" will be despatched from Hongkong on FRIDAY, the 28th instant, with letters to Mr. S. C. Ho, at the Consulate, Canton, Hongkong, Cebu, Manila, Singapore, and to Messrs. G. H. & Co., Brisbane, Sydney, Tasmania, Melbourne, and Melbourne. Correspondence cannot be registered after 11 A.M. Letters will be closed at 11.30 A.M. Supplementary Mail on board with 18 tons late fee. No parcels of departure. Correspondence for Southern and Western Australia can be sent by this route if desired, but the general rule is it is better to send it via Cebu. The Office will provide means of remitting small sums from one to or from this Colony and between Hongkong, Shanghai, China and Japan, the Postmaster's Agents of this Office will in future beal (but not required) to purchase Hongkong

Stamps from other countries, such as the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, India, etc., are not accepted. Stamps from Hong Kong, Shanghai, or Kweichow, Coloman, however, in either direction, are accepted. Orders must be used.

Stamps tendered for sale must not exceed 50% of the value of the stamps to be sold. In addition, and in strips of at least two, as many of the stamps as possible must be sold. Unsold Stamps will be purchased. They will be returned personally or accompanied by a note.

Containing Stamps should be registered with the Post Office and the stamps should be secured from circulation.

Any boxes of letters are received at the Post Office, but that is to say, the box is sealed with sealing wax, but there is no indication of a seal.

Attention for boxholders is called to the fact that the boxholders are carefully sealing such boxes with recognizable seal, and of sending a child.

**FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM, ETC., BY
FRENCH PACKET.**

Under instructions from the London Post Office, the mails for the United Kingdom which are hitherto been forwarded by Naples, as will be hereafter forwarded via Genoa, it will be understood that a gain of twelve hours results from the adoption of this route.

It would be exceedingly advantageous to divide the mail service between Genoa and Naples, so doing so, all correspondence intended for the United Kingdom by French Packet will be sent via Naples, even though marked via Mar-

Impression appears to prevail that correspondence for the Mediterranean stations, viz., Genoa, Malta, Cyprus, the Levant, Turkey, can be forwarded by the British mail. It is not so, but as French Packet, and forwarded generally arrives a week earlier than the British mail, it is not probable that if it had been detained for the British mail.

PATTERNS.

Some difficulty is experienced in obtaining a sound understanding of what is a *Pattern*. It is a bona fide sample of goods which the sender offers for sale, or of goods which he wishes to dispose of. It is the nearest possible approach to the goods themselves, and is the most compatible with showing what the goods are, and transitive has intrinsic value.

Most countries to which Hongkong forwards correspondence, having no such thing as a General Pattern, it is not probable about to do so, and it is necessary that the following rules be

Only observed.

No Letter or Packet, whether to be signed, or unsent, shall be received for Epistage, unless it contains gold or silver money, jewels, precious articles, or anything that, as a general rule, is liable to Customs duties.

The following articles may be sent by post, in letters or packets, unless the quantity is so small as to make the sample of no value.

The limits of weight allowed are as follows:

TO BRITISH OFFICES.	
Books and Papers.....	3lb.
Patterns.....	5lb.
TO FOREIGN OFFICES.	
Books and Papers.....	2lb.
Patterns.....	8oz.

The following articles cannot be sent by post, unless in small quantities.

Alcohol, Brandy, &c.	Guns, powder,
Matches, Candles, Soap, Indigo, Dye-stuffs, or	

The public is reminded that there is no such thing as Parcel Post to Europe. Much content and disappointment is caused by persistent attempts to send small valuable articles by Parcel Post. Many Carriers, Articles of Contents, Fancy Work, and similar presents are continually being refused, the senders are sent back to post office, and the goods are often spoiled more by the delay than by the handling. The goods should have been sent by steamship. No refund can be made on such parcels of the value of Stamps paid therefor before the nature of the contents is discovered.

REGISTRATION TO PARCELS.

Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for Siam has been good enough to make arrangements by means of which correspondence may be registered and sent through the mails. The rate of 8

The attention of owners, agents, and charterers is drawn to the provision of The Port Office Ordinance, 1876.

Under the old Ordinance no notice was required of the departure of a vessel if it departed, not by order of the Port Office or Customs, and no notice was required of any departure, though with regard to sailing ships, the old rule will eventually remain in force, this notice need not be sent.

Section XXV, requires that the first notice be sent to the Port Office.

In the case of steamers plying regularly or on fixed days, no notice of change in the day or time of departure may be sufficient.

Stamped correspondence may still be sent on board any vessel until the mail is closed at the Port Office.

The Master General takes this opportunity

calling the attention of firms to the fact that any such words as Despatches will close at 11 A.M., add to the address the mark of a vessel are delayed. Consignee's letters are accepted by law on passing through the Post Office, but no person is allowed to make collection, such letters for transmission under a penalty of £200 per week during which the practice continued.

